



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

Media Contact: Aaron Voos, (307) 745-2323

Prescribed Burn in Sierra Madre Planned by U.S. Forest Service

(SARATOGA, Wyo.) April 5, 2016 – Medicine Bow National Forest fire crews are hoping to conduct a prescribed burn in the northwest portion of the Sierra Madre Range sometime in the next month. The burn units are located on National Forest System lands managed by the Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District, west of Encampment, Wyo.

The primary burn unit will include 609 acres in the Divide Peak area and is part of the Divide Peak Prescribed Burn Project. Located on the northern end of the Sierra Madres, this project area encompasses about 1,600 acres and is expected to require multiple years to complete burning.

Suitable weather and fuel moisture conditions will determine the exact date of these burns. Burning will not take place unless daily ventilation category (smoke dispersal) forecasts are “good” to “excellent” and other weather-related conditions are favorable. As is often the case, fire managers will be faced with a small window of time between snowmelt and vegetation green-up during which to implement the spring burn.

The fire is expected to burn in a mosaic pattern, desired to improve vegetation conditions and wildlife habitat, and to reduce fire danger by mitigating fuel loading.

The burn unit is composed of mountain shrubs, grass, and some aspen. To reduce adverse fire activity, a key burn plan requirement is that the unit be mostly surrounded by snow and/or non-burnable breaks in the topography. U.S. Forest Service fire crews will monitor the burn area until all fires are completely out.

Prescribed burns are used by the Forest Service to benefit wildlife and vegetation. A versatile management tool, the burns can reinvigorate rangeland, mimic historically natural fire disturbances, reduce hazardous fuel buildup, and improve habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District visitors are encouraged to call the District Office at (307) 326-2517 with questions or visit the District Office at 2171 Hwy 130, in Saratoga between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Information may also be found on this website, <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>, or you can follow the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter, [@FS_MBRTB](https://twitter.com/FS_MBRTB)

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